

I

ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

- of -

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ended 31st December, 1971

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCall
V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague
M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

F.A. Lethbridge, M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Public Health Inspector

G.G. Naismith, M.A.P.H.I.,

District Nurses

Mrs. Crouch, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Mrs. Beechey, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Health, Highways and Buildings Committee

E.F. Britten
L.T. Clapp
C.T. Cranton
M.E. Holton (Chairman)
Mrs. M.T. Prew
D.G. Seaward (Vice-Chairman)
L.C. Sparks

Housing Committee

E.F. Britten
L.G. Carbin
L.T. Clapp
C.T. Cranton
G.M. Giles
M.E. Holton
I.J. Morgan
Mrs. M.T. Prew
D.G. Seaward (Vice-Chairman)
L.C. Sparks (Chairman)
P.G.H. Speke
S.C. Withers

Health Department,
16 Church Street,
Crewkerne,
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To The Chairman and Councillors of the Ilminster Urban District
Council.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Report for 1971.

The health of the townspeople was extremely good during the year.

Three things made it a memorable year. The introduction of decimal currency in February caused considerable discussion at the time but was established quite smoothly. However, the cost of living seemed to rise dramatically at the same time.

The introduction of comprehensive education at the commencement of the Michaelmas Term saw the end of our two Grammar Schools to the regret of many people. It is far too soon to make any judgment as to how the new system is working.

There was a postal strike in the early part of the year which caused considerable delay in the Council's work and led to a certain accumulation of correspondence which eventually was cleared.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,
Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCall

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

Following the census, the Registrar General has given the population of Ilminster to be 3,420, an increase on the previous year's estimated figure, which gives a density of 5.5 per acre. The Rateable Value was £150,000 and the product of a new penny rate £1,296.

Birth Rate

The corrected Birth Rate was 18.3 per thousand compared with a figure of 16 for England and Wales. There was one illegitimate birth.

Death Rate

The Corrected Death Rate was 10.5 per thousand compared with a national figure of 11.6. Out of a total of 38 deaths 21 were due to heart disease, 12 were due to cancer of which seven were cancer of the lung. Eight deaths were caused by "strokes" and a further two persons died of diseases of the respiratory system.

The expectation of life at the age on one year in England and Wales is 75.1 years for women and 69.1 for men. This shortfall of life expectancy for men due to smoking related disease is about two years in Britain. The mortality from smoking related disease in Britain is among the highest in the world. Cigarette smoking is the largest single avoidable cause of death in Britain today. Tobacco smoke is the most dangerous pollutant widely dispersed in Britain. It is, of course a pollutant of many enclosed spaces, including Committee rooms, and there is some evidence of a harmful effect of "secondary smoking" on the non-smoker. Robert Herrick, writing in the 17th century, wrote the appropriate verse :

"Come, Let us go, while we are in our prime
And take the harmful folly of the time
We shall grow old apace, and die
Before we know our Liberty"

Appendix A, Table 3 shows full details of the causes of death.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths in 1971.

Stillbirths

There were no stillbirths during the year.

Infant Mortality

There were no infant deaths during the year.

Social Conditions

The pattern of life continued in much the same manner as previous years but 1971 was marked by a dramatic rise in the cost of living.

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The health services provided by the Somerset County Council continued unchanged.

There was a falling-off in the numbers attending the Child Welfare Clinic but the medical consultations were about the same.

The demand for pre-school care of children was met by the formation of another playgroup. All the places were quickly taken.

Appendix B, Table 2 gives details of the medical inspections I carried out in the schools. The number of children attending the County schools slightly increased due to the closure of two private schools in Chard.

The Education Department have been planning the re-organisation of education in Ilminster for the last two or three years and in September comprehensive education commenced. Both Boys' and Girls' grammar schools were closed, as was the Junior Boys' School, in Ditton Street. The Secondary Modern School became Ilminster Middle School, known as Swanmead. This school takes children from the age of 9 - 13. All the senior children are transported to Wadham School, Crewkerne, the purpose-built comprehensive school adjacent to the old Crewkerne Grammar School.

SECTION C

Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases No infectious diseases were notified during 1971.

I cannot believe that Ilminster escaped without even one case of measles during the year. I can only presume that when infectious disease did occur the doctors were not consulted.

I carried out my routine B.C.G. programme against tuberculosis in the autumn. Children born in 1960 were those offered vaccination. I did fifteen children at Swanmead but the remainder were attending Wadham School, Crewkerne, and were done there.

SECTION D

Environmental Health Services

A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions In 1971 the weather was generally equable with no extremes of temperature.

Water Supply The water supply provided by the Wessex Water Board was satisfactory throughout the year both in quality and quantity. Sampling was carried out regularly by the Wessex Water Board (12 samples) and by our Health Department (4 samples) and I am pleased to state that all the samples examined were satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Sampling of the effluent at our sewage works was done monthly throughout the year and on only two occasions was the standard exceeded. In May there was a slight increase in the amount of solids although the biological oxygen demand was satisfactory, and in July the trouble was caused by a jammed valve which, when freed, worked satisfactorily and subsequent sampling showed the effluent had returned to an acceptable level.

In times of heavy rainfall the levels at the ejector station in Station Road were too high and the Council decided to provide larger pumps to deal with the trouble.

Refuse Collection The Council continued their regular weekly collection of refuse disposing of it on a controlled tip at Chilworthy.

Public Conveniences The public conveniences were well maintained despite a considerable increase in use by the travelling public. There was some vandalism from time to time.

Rodent Control Our part-time rodent control operator carried out regular test baiting of Council property and sewers and dealt promptly with complaints of private residents. No serious infestation was reported during the year.

Swimming Baths Two schools have swimming baths which are maintained satisfactorily in accordance with the code laid down by the County Council. Both use mains water.

Nuisances Complaints received by the Public Health Department varied considerably in nature but all were dealt with promptly by the inspectors.

B. Factories Act

Details of the inspections carried out by the Public Health Inspectors are shown in Appendix D, Table.

C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

Routine inspections were carried out at a number of the 60 premises registered under this Act and informal action was taken in several cases to ensure compliance.

D. Housing

During the year the Council erected 20 houses and a further 87 were built by private builders who also had another 62 in the course of erection. Since 1945 693 houses have been built in Ilminster, 373 of these by the Council who propose to build a further 20 units each year until 1975. At the end of the year there were 145 applicants on the housing list including 60 for old peoples' dwellings. Among the general applicants only ten were classified as urgent.

The Council continued to encourage applications for both standard and discretionary grants and gave approval for five standard grants and four discretionary grants.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Milk sampling was carried out regularly by the County Health Department and 29 samples were examined all of which were found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream Fifteen premises are registered for the retail of pre-packed ice cream. Six samples were taken during the year and all were in Provisional Grade I, a clear indication that the storage methods were satisfactory.

Meat There are two private slaughter houses in the town and details of the hundred per cent inspection are given in Appendix D, Table 3.

Food Hygiene Regulations There are 42 premises registered under these Regulations. Informal action was taken in several cases and a formal notice was given in one case to bring about compliance with the Regulations.

APPENDIX A TABLE 1

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1971 | 3,420 |
| Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1971 according to the Rate Book | 1,347 |
| Rateable Value | £150,000 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £1,296 |
| Area | 531 acres |

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----|-------|
| Birth Rate | 18.3 per 1,000 | Comparability Factor | | 0.98 |
| | | M | F | Total |
| Live Births | Total | 39 | 25 | 64 |
| | Legitimate | 39 | 24 | 63 |
| | Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |
| Stillbirths | Total | - | - | - |
| | Legitimate | - | - | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Deaths of Infants Under 1 year | Total | - | - | - |
| | Legitimate | - | - | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Deaths of Infants Under 4 weeks | Total | - | - | - |
| | Legitimate | - | - | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - | - |
| Deaths of Infants Under 1 week | Total | - | - | - |
| | Legitimate | - | - | - |
| | Illegitimate | - | - | - |

DEATH RATE 10.5

Comparability Factor 0.95

[illegible]

APPENDIX B TABLE 1

Ilminster Child Welfare Clinic

1. Number of children on register who attended during 1971

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Born in 1971 | 65 |
| Born in 1970 | 50 |
| Born 1967 - 69 | 125 |
| Total | 240 |

2. Number of attendances in 1971 by children

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Born in 1971 | 641 |
| Born in 1970 | 143 |
| Born 1967 - 69 | 122 |
| Total | 906 |

3. Number of sessions 52

4. Number of medical consultations 207

5. Number of doctor sessions 24

APPENDIX B TABLE 2

| <u>Name of School</u> | <u>No. on Roll</u> | <u>No. in-spected</u> | <u>Date of Medical Inspection</u> | <u>Children having milk</u> | <u>Children having dinner</u> | <u>Date of last Dental Inspection.</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Ilminster Boys Grammar | 110 | 24 | 30.6.71 | - | 25.45% | 4.11.70 |
| Ilminster Infants' and Junior Girls' | 235 | 84 | 26/27/28.5.71 | 82.98% | 72.34% | 3.6.70 |
| Ilminster Secondary Modern | 294 | 55 | 20/21/221.71 | - | 44.89% | 22.4.70 |

Infectious Diseases

Nil

Analysis of Cases Notified

Under
1 yr 1-2 2-3 3-4 4-5 5-10 10-15 15-20 20-35 35-45 45-55 55-65 65+

Nil

Tuberculosis

| Age Group | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|-----------|-------------|---|-----------------|---|-------------|---|-----------------|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| - 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 - 5 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 - 15 | | | | | | | | |
| 15 - 25 | | | | | | | | |
| 25 - 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 35 - 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 - 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 - 65 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 + | | | | | | | | |
| Totals | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX D TABLE 1

Factories Act, 1961

| | No. on Register | No. of Inspections | No. of written Notices | No. of occupiers prosecuted |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority | 5 | 1 | - | - |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority | 26 | 5 | 1 | - |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | 7 | 2 | - | - |
| Total | 38 | 8 | 1 | - |

| | | | |
|--|------|------|----|
| Cases in which defects were found | | | 1 |
| Cases in which defects were remedied | ... | | 1 |
| No. of outworkers (sections 133 & 134).. | | | 14 |

HousingAction taken during year

| | | | | | |
|---|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. No. of houses included in Clearance Area for which Orders are still to be made | | | | | Nil |
| 2. No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957 | | | | | Nil |
| 3. No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas) | | | | | Nil |
| 4. Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17 - Individual Unfits) No. of houses lost: | | | | | |
| (i) (a) Houses demolished | | | | | Nil |
| (b) Houses closed | | | | | Nil |
| (ii) For other purposes (road improvements, etc.) | | | | | Nil |
| 5. No. of temporary dwellings (huts etc.) demolished | | | | | Nil |
| 6. No. of houses declared unfit under: | | | | | |
| (i) Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 | | | | | Nil |
| (ii) Section 72 of the Housing Act, 1969 | | | | | Nil |
| 7. No. of houses made fit during year | | | | | 5 |
| 8. No. of unfit houses occupied under licence | | | | | Nil |
| 9. Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Acts, 1961 to 1969) | | | | | Nil |
| 10. Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961) | | | | | Nil |
| 11. Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961) Action taken | | | | | Nil |
| 12. Housing Act, 1969 Section 28 General Improvement Areas Number of areas so defined | | | | | Nil |
| 13. <u>Housing Act, 1957 - Slum Clearance</u> | | | | | |
| | 1972 | 1973 | 1974 | 1975 | |
| 1. Part a. Houses in areas to be declared | - | - | - | - | |
| III b. Houses to be cleared | - | - | - | - | |
| 2. Part Houses likely to be subject to | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | |
| II demolition or closing orders | | | | | |
| Remarks: Council's policy is one of improvement of older houses rather than the closure and demolition. | | | | | |
| 14. Housing Act, 1964 Any action taken during year | | | | | None. |
| 15. <u>Rent Acts, 1968 and Housing Act, 1969</u> | | | | | |
| (i) Certificates of Fair Rent-Certificates issued (if known) | | | | | Nil |
| (ii) Certificates of Disrepair | | | | | |
| (a) No. of applications received | | | | | Nil |
| (b) No. of Certificates issued | | | | | Nil |

| | Houses erected during year | | Houses in course of erection | | Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings | Lost from conversion of two or more houses into one |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|
| | For Slum Clearance | For other Purposes | For Slum Clearance | For other Purposes | | |
| Local Authority | Nil | 20 | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Private Enterprise | Nil | 87 | Nil | 62 | Nil | Nil |

Number of Post-War Houses erected from
1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1971

| By Local Authority | By Private Enterprise |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 373 | 320 |

Future Housing Programme (if known) (As requested by Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular No. 21/65)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Programme forecast 72-73-74-75 | 72/73 | 20 units |
| | 73/74 | 20 units |
| | 74/75 | 20 units |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----|
| (a) No. of temporary housing units occupied | (i) Prefabs | Nil |
| | (ii) Huts, etc. | Nil |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| (b) No. of houses found overcrowded | Nil |
|-------------------------------------|-----|

Houses required

| | |
|---|-----|
| (i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition | 10 |
| (ii) To abate overcrowding | Nil |
| (iii) For other purposes | 10 |
| (iv) Applications for Council houses at the end of the year | |
| a. Urgent bona fide cases | 10 |
| b. Applications for old people's dwellings | 60 |
| c. Others | 75 |

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total applications | 145 |
|--------------------|-----|

| | No of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.70 | GAINED | | | Total (a) + (b) | LOST | | | | No. of Permanent Dwellings in District as at 31.12.71 |
|--------|--|------------|---------------|---|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|---|
| | | a) Erected | b) Conversion | c) Council houses sold to P.E. during 1971 | | a) Demolished | b) Closed | c) Sold during 1971 | d) Conversion | |
| | | (a) | (b) | (c) | | (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | |
| | | A | B | C | | A | B | C | D | |
| L.A. | 415 | 20 | 2 | - | 437 | - | - | - | - | 437 |
| P.E. | 821 | 87 | 2 | - | 910 | - | - | - | - | 910 |
| Totals | 1,236 | 107 | 4 | - | 1,347 | - | - | - | - | 1,347 |

OLD PEOPLE'S DWELLINGS

| Total number erected to 31.12.71 | | Number in course of Erection | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| With County Council Aid | Without County Council Aid | With County Council Aid | Without County Council Aid |
| Nil | 16 | Nil | Nil |

Grants by Local Authorities to Private Owners

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year:

| | RECEIVED | | APPROVED | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | <u>Applications</u> | <u>No. of Dwellings</u> | <u>Applications</u> | <u>No. of Dwellings</u> |
| 1. Improvement Grants | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| 2. Standard Grants | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 |
| 3. Special Grants | - | - | - | - |

APPENDIX D. TABLE 3

Meat Inspection

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 595 | 73 | 655 | 2701 | 463 | - |
| Number inspected | 595 | 73 | 655 | 2701 | 463 | - |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 2 | 1 | 7 | 5 | - | - |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 158 | 40 | 13 | 140 | 42 | - |
| Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and systicerci | 26.89% | 56.16% | 3.05% | 5.37% | 9.07% | - |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole caracese condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 0.22% | - |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | | | |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Generalised and totally condemned | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for: | | | | | | |
| (a) Tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | 9 | - |
| (b) Cysticercosis | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| (c) Other | 2460 | 951 | 312 | 456 | 178 | - |
| Total (in lbs.) condemned | 2472 | 951 | 312 | 456 | 187 | - |

